



FEB News & Events

Oregon Federal Executive Board

Partnerships for a More Cost Effective Federal Government

www.oregon.feb.gov



Volume 5-04

February 2004

In Brief . . .

- **2004 CFC Apps for Local Charities Now Available**

Local charities can now find applications and information for the 2004 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) on the Columbia River/Willamette Valley CFC's web site, www.oregon.feb.gov/cfc. The OFEB can also send applications by e-mail or mail upon request. Applications will be accepted at the OFEB office from March 15th - April 16th. If you know of a charity that you'd like to see participate in the CFC, please encourage them to apply.

- **Thrift Savings Plan Seminar, Feb. 10th**

On Tuesday, February 10th, the OFEB welcomes representatives from the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board to the Portland, where they will provide a comprehensive overview of the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP). This FREE, comprehensive three-hour session at the GSA Auditorium (at BPA headquarters) is designed for all federal employees under the FERS or CSRS retirement systems. You can attend one of two sessions, either 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Go to the OFEB web site at www.oregon.feb.gov or call Mary at 503-326-3010 for info and to register.

- **DHS/FEMA & GSA COOP Planning, Mar. 10th**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) will host the first Portland-area Interagency Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) Working Group as part of the Department of Homeland Security's initiative to better coordinate local emergency preparedness plans. FEMA and GSA will co-chair. This session is designed for top managers; additional meetings for COOP planners will be held at a later date. The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. - 12 noon, room 122 at BPA's headquarters. Contact June Uson, FEMA Region X, at (425) 487-4634 or June.Uson@dhs.gov for details.

- **HUD/SBA Contractor Conference, Mar. 18th**

Network with and present your federal contracting opportunities to local minority-, women- and disadvantaged small business owners, to help you meet your procurement and diversity goals. Nationally acclaimed guest speakers, a luncheon, workshops and match-making sessions are included. The event will be held Thursday, March 18th, 2004, 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. at the Double Tree Hotel-Jantzen Beach in Portland. Cost is \$35.00/registrant before 3/12/04, with exhibitor

and match-making space available at modest extra costs. For more information contact Manny Lee of HUD at (206) 220-5363 or 1-877-741-3281, or go to www.hud.gov/local/index.cfm?state-wa after Feb. 6th.

- **Cispus Workshop, March 1-5**

Registration deadline extended. Sharpen your communications skills at this week-long intensive held in the remote beauty of Randle, Washington. Organized and taught by federal and state government professionals, the curriculum focuses on introductory team management, outreach and public involvement, and meeting facilitation. The workshop was designed for natural resource agencies but the skills are broadly applicable. Only \$425 for the week, including lodging, meals and materials. Go to www.reo.gov/cispus/ for information or contact Jerry Hubbard, Bureau of Land Management, at (503) 326-2355.

- **OFEB 2004 Needs Assessment Survey Results**

In Nov.-Dec. 2003 the OFEB conducted a series in-depth needs assessment surveys with 15 local federal agency leaders, to help shape our programs and services for the coming year. Questions focused on how local agencies cope with security, human capital management, competitive sourcing, e-government and community service issues. These topics have been established as objectives by the national Federal Executive Board network.

Common themes include a desire from some for inter-agency communication in emergency situations, succession plan sharing, career transition training, and interest in safety and health/wellness seminars. More details are available from Jeff Sargent, at 503-326-3030.

- **Congress Passes FY '04 Federal Pay Increase**

The Congress has passed and the President has signed legislation providing a retroactive 4.1 percent overall average pay raise for GS employees effective with the first pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2004. The new raises will supercede the 2.0 percent overall average increase approved by the President in December 2003. However, the legislation authorizes the President to allocate the 4.1 percent between an across-the-board pay raise and locality pay. We anticipate that the President will issue an Executive order in February allocating the raises. At this time, it is unknown what the total increase will be in any locality pay area. OPM will post new pay tables as soon as possible after the Executive order is issued.

OFEB CALENDAR

February 2004

2/3-4, 8:30 a.m.	FERS Retirement & Estate Planning
Experienced trainers offer in-depth insight into what you need to do to build and protect your retirement savings.	
Location: Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Bldg. 1220 SW 3rd Ave., Room 272, Portland	
Day 1: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (registration 8:00 a.m.)	
Day 2: 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon	
Cost: \$100 for federal employees, \$40 for non-federal spouses. To register, contact Mary Ceciliani at 503-326-3010 or mcecilia@pcez.com .	
2/4, 2-4 p.m.	Shared Neutral/ADR Committee
Monthly board meeting of the OFEB's free alternative dispute resolution services for federal and local governments.	
Location: Robert Duncan Plaza 333 SW 1st Ave., 10th floor Portland, OR 97204	
2/10 8:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.	Thrift Savings Plan A-Z
Choose from two special three-hour sessions that cover everything there is to know about the Thrift Savings Plan.	
Location: GSA Auditorium (BPA headquarters bldg.) 905 N. E. 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232	
Cost: FREE	
2/12, 10 a.m.-12 noon	Minority Business Committee
Monthly meeting to enhance opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses to earn govt. contracts.	
Location: Port of Portland 121 NW Everett St. Portland, OR 97209	
March 2004	
3/5, 12-1 p.m.	Introduction to Financial Planning
"Brown bag" lunch session that review the fundamentals of the TSP, mutual funds, and how they can contribute to a healthy retirement portfolio.	
Location: Green-Wyatt Federal Bldg. 1220 SW 3rd Ave, #315, Portland, OR 97204	
Cost: FREE	
3/3, 2-4 p.m.	Shared Neutral/ADR Committee
See February entry above for description and location.	
3/10, 8:30-10 a.m.	Admin. Services Committee
Location: To Be Determined (TBD).	



February 2004

FEDERAL AGENCY FOCUS

Agency Name: Veterans Affairs Medical Center
Director: Dr. James Tuschschmidt
Address: 3710 SW US Veterans Hospital Road
 Portland, OR 97239
Phone: 503-220-8262
Web Page: <http://www.portland.med.va.gov>
Service Area: Oregon, SW Washington, Idaho

Agency Purpose: The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was established in 1989, succeeding the Veterans Administration, founded in 1930. The VA is the second largest of 15 Cabinet departments and operates nationwide programs for health care, financial assistance and burial benefits. FY '03 spending was \$59.6 billion. There are 25 million veterans currently living, with almost 70 million Americans eligible for veterans benefits (25% of the pop.). Perhaps the most visible of all VA benefits and services is health care. From 54 hospitals in 1930, VA's health care system has grown to 163 facilities. The VA also manages the largest medical education and health training program in the U.S.

Mission: Provide health care services to eligible veterans.

Vision: Becoming a premier integrated healthcare system that is dedicated to caring for veterans and other beneficiaries; providing health care value in quality access, improved function, satisfaction, and cost; and, being a leader in medical education and research.

Local Profile: The Portland VA Medical Center (PVAMC) is a 210-bed consolidated facility with two main divisions: the medical center atop Marquam Hill, next to OHSU, and the second campus at the former Vancouver VA Hospital. The PVAMC serves as the referral center for Oregon, Southern Washington, and parts of Idaho. It also supports outpatient clinics in Bend, Salem, and Warrenton, OR and in Longview, WA, and counseling centers in NE Portland and Salem.

More than 2,000 employees provide dedicated care for local veterans, and the demand for services has risen dramatically in recent years. Veterans treated in Primary Care rose 30.6% at the PVAMC in FY '03. Through this the hospital has excelled in many national performance measures on preventative care and managing chronic diseases. Their specialties include treatment and research for cancer, Parkinson's, Multiple Sclerosis, Hepatitis C, hearing loss, spinal cord injury, mental illness, alcoholism, and more.

Education is a vital component of the VA's health care mission. More than 1,200 administrative and clerical trainees receive instruction at the hospital annually. The Portland VA also ranks among the top 10 VA centers nationwide in research support, and brought in about \$28 million in research grant funding last year.

COMMITTEE CORNERS

Policy Committee

Next Mtg.: Mar. 11th, 8:30–10:00 am, ODS Tower, 601 SW 2nd, 20th fl., Portland.

News: Topics include a review of “Life After 50” training and a look at the 2004 needs assessment survey.

Administrative Services

Next Mtg.: March 10, 8:30–10:00 am, location TBD.

News: The BLM Most Efficient Organization Study (MEO) was featured at the Dec. 10th meeting. Debbie Norton and John Keith shared the lessons learned from the BLM’s road and facilities maintenance study.

Combined Federal Campaign

News: The successful 2003 campaign closed with \$1.5 million raised and two celebration luncheons, Jan. 27 (Salem) & 28 (Portland). Applications are now available to charities for the 2004 CFC, at www.oregon.feb.gov/cfc.

Emergency Preparedness

News: Bonneville Power Admin. will host the first Portland-area FEMA/GSA COOP Working Group session Mar. 10th, 9 am–12 noon (see pg. 1).

Employee Retention & Development

News: The OFEB has been testing several new training opportunities, including Financial Planning for Federal Employees and a Federal Wellness Program. Financial Planning is tentatively returning Mar. 5th (details to come). A “Life After 50” career analysis session will be tested Feb. 20th with the OFEB’s Policy Committee and some of their HR staff. If successful, this training will be rolled out to a broader audience.

Minority Business Opportunity

Next Mtg.: Feb. 12, 10:00 am–12 noon, Port of Portland.

News: The next meeting will welcome new officers and review plans for the coming year.

Public Affairs

Next Mtg.: April, To Be Determined (TBD).

News: The January meeting featured federal public affairs training needs, with presentations from PSU’s Executive Leadership Institute and the Portland Public Relations Society of America. Requests from attendees included training on dealing with stakeholders, policy analysis, consistent messaging with fed partners, communicating mission/identity and creating public affairs plans.

Shared Neutrals/ADR

Next Mtg.: Feb. 4, 2–4 pm, Duncan Plaza, 333 SW 1st Ave., 10th floor, Portland.

News: Goals and objectives for the strategic plan and the 2003 annual report are on the agenda for the next meeting.

OFEB Policy Committee Officers

OFEB Chair:

Cathy Callahan, National Labor Relations Board

Vice-Chair:

Jerry Lorang, Veterans Affairs Regional Office

At-Large Members:

Anne Badgley, Regional Ecosystems Office

Michael Campbell, Bureau of Land Management

Randy Crockett, Social Security Administration

Lucy Devenney, Willamette National Cemetery

Kathy Eaton, Bureau of Land Management

Janice Goodwin, Nat’l Agricultural Statistics Service

Bob Graham, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Harry T. Hall, Fed. Energy Regulatory Commission

Captain Paul Jewell, U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Safety

Lt. Col. Charles Markham, Army Corps of Engineers

Les Miller, Army Corps of Engineers

Lynda Stelzer, Bonneville Power Administration

Committees & Chairs

Administrative Services

Kathy Eaton, Bureau of Land Mgmt., 503-808-6092

Lynda Stelzer, Bonneville Power Adm., 503-230-4966

Combined Federal Campaign

Randy Crockett, Social Security Adm., 503-326-6309

Emergency Preparedness

Les Miller, Army Corps of Engineers, 503-808-4400

Employee Retention & Development

Staffed by Ron Johnson & Jeff Sargent, 503-326-3030

Minority Business Opportunity Committee

Mary Witty, Small Business Admin., 503-326-5105

Rhonnda Edmiston, Port of Portland, 503-944-7587

Public Affairs

Michael Campbell, BLM, 503-808-6031

Shared Neutrals/Alternative Dispute Resolution

Fran Petersen, Bonneville Power Adm., 503-230-5860

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